

Background for Senate Bill 1142 of 2014

In 2013 I spoke at meeting of the Michigan Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and learned there are excess regulations with no enforcement with the current law regarding fire drills for universities.

- This legislation would amend the Fire Protection Act of 1941 in order to make emergency drill requirements both enforceable and less burdensome for universities in Michigan.
- The current statute requires 8 fire and 2 tornado drills -- an excessive amount for adults attending college -- and no clear reporting or enforcement. This legislation would

reduce the number of fire drills per year, but enforce minimum obligations through reporting and penalties.

- Required drills would change from eight to three, with one fire drill in each semester (fall, spring and summer) for all residence halls/dormitories. Additionally, one of these drills is required to be done during the hours between dusk and dawn when the majority of students are in the dormitories. The fall semester fire drill must be completed within 21 days of the start of classes for the fall semester.
- Mandatory fire and tornado drill training before the start of the academic year for each instructional staff member.

- Each institution shall prepare a report designed by the Fire Services Bureau for each drill required. They shall also keep a record of these drills and have them available for review if requested by the Fire Services Bureau.
- Starting in 2016, by January 10th of each year, all postsecondary educational institutions shall submit, on a form designated by the Bureau of fire services, a statement certifying that in institution complied with all of the requirements of this legislation.
- The institution is responsible for a civil fine of \$500.00 for a first violation of this legislation, and a civil fine of \$1,000.00 for a second or subsequent violation. A civil fine

collected under this legislation shall be paid to the general fund and credited to the fire Services Bureau for the enforcement of this act.

- For a second or subsequent violation of this legislation, the Bureau of Fire Services may require a mandatory inspection of the institutions facilities and the preparation of a plan of action report by the Bureau of Fire Services or its designee. The institution is responsible for payment of the Bureau of Fire Services costs associated with an inspection and plan of action report, or \$1,000.00, whichever is less.

- Beginning in 2016, on or before Feb 15th of each year the Bureau of Fire Services shall submit a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Leader, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Higher Education and Joint Capital Outlay.

You should hear testimony that this legislation is supported by:

Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan

Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities

Michigan Community College Association

Neutral - LARA

Senator _____ offered the following amendment to
Senate Bill No. 1142:

1. Amend page 6, line 16, by striking out all of subsection (2) and inserting:

"(2) A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION SHALL ENSURE UNRESTRICTED EMERGENCY EGRESS FROM EACH SCHOOL DORMITORY WHILE STUDENTS OCCUPY THE BUILDING; AND SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH SCHOOL DORMITORY HOLDS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FIRE DRILLS EACH YEAR AND KEEPS A RECORD OF THOSE DRILLS:

(A) ONE FIRE DRILL IN THE FALL SEMESTER, HELD WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER THE START OF CLASSES IN THAT SEMESTER.

(B) ONE FIRE DRILL IN THE SPRING SEMESTER.

(C) ONE FIRE DRILL IN THE SUMMER SEMESTER, IF THE DORMITORY IS OCCUPIED BY STUDENTS DURING THAT SEMESTER.".

This is a Clarifying amendment to
ensure dormitories that are not occupied
in the Summer do not have to
conduct a fire drill in an empty
building.